



Congressman

Wally Herger

Reports from Washington

106th Congress - 2nd Session

Volume One



Dear Friends:

This legislative year is off to a solid start. It began with the announcement of an ambitious bipartisan goal to pay off the national public debt by the year 2013. This goal, set by Congress and the President, will reserve the projected 10-year, \$2.9 trillion Social Security surplus for Social Security spending and use the remaining \$746 billion in non-Social Security surpluses for national debt payments and tax reform. Paying off this debt will mean lower interest rates and better economic opportunities for all Northern California families. It is critical that we meet this goal and help make it possible for our children to pursue the American dream.

The House is also working to ease the financial burdens of working couples and families. This year, our first order of business was to pass the Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, legislation to end the unfair marriage penalty tax. When a couple stands at the altar, they are not agreeing to higher taxes. Currently, married couples are penalized an average of \$1,400 a year for filing a joint tax return rather than filing as two single individuals. Families could use this additional money for a new computer, extra car payments, house repairs or a family vacation. I represent 47,553 Northern California married couples who are currently penalized by this tax. I believe they all deserve to have more control over their own hard-earned money, and the Marriage Penalty Elimination Act will provide couples well-deserved tax fairness.



I am also working to end the outdated Social Security earnings limit, a law that takes Social Security benefits from Northern California seniors who work. It makes common sense to eliminate the earnings limit and allow older Americans the choice to work without losing their Social Security benefits.

As always, I will continue my battle against wasteful federal spending. As a member of the House Budget Committee, I have been selected to lead a panel on Washington waste, fraud and abuse. I look forward to working with other members of the House to fight against careless spending that drains precious taxpayer dollars from more worthy projects, such as education and health care. I will also continue working for responsible and balanced approaches to managing our natural resources and improving water policy in California, including flood control, increasing water storage and protecting Area of Origin rights of Northern California..

WHAT'S INSIDE

**Town Hall Meetings
Schedule**

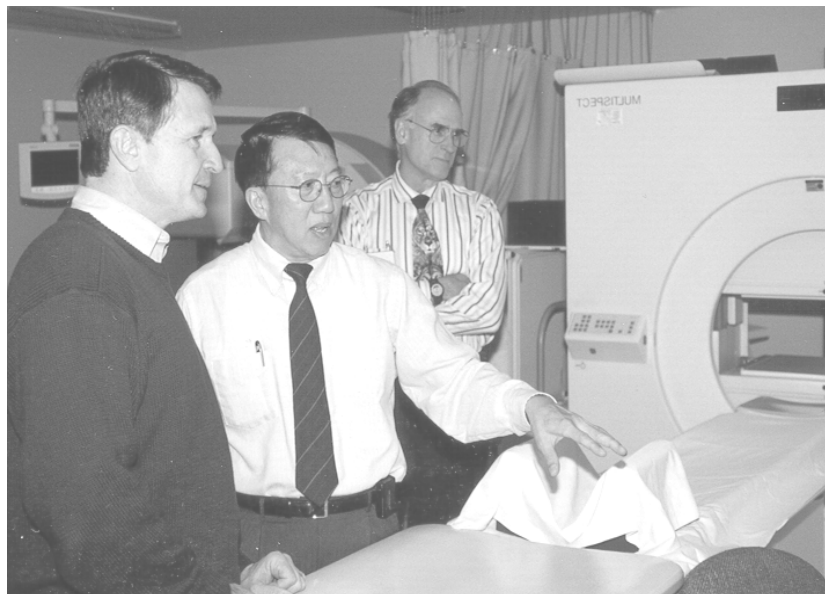
**2000 Congressional
Questionnaire**

**Military
Academy
Nominations**

Your input remains essential in helping me effectively represent you in Congress. I strongly believe the best ideas about running our nation are found at the local level, not in Washington, DC. Please take a moment to complete the 2000 Congressional Questionnaire. Furthermore, I encourage all Northern Californians to attend my upcoming Town Hall meetings, held throughout our Congressional District. I have included a schedule of these meetings in this report, and hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress



Congressman Herger listens to Dr. Edward Tam of the Redding Pathologists Laboratory describe the functions of the nuclear medicine scanner, a device used to scan for cancerous tumors. During his visit, Representative Herger learned firsthand the role laboratories play in improving our health care system. The Redding lab was founded in 1953 and has become the largest private clinical laboratory in Shasta and adjacent counties.

Town Hall Meeting Schedule

As Congress considers important issues such as paying off the national debt, tax reform, and improvements to our education system, I will be holding a series of town hall meetings throughout our Congressional District. Town hall meetings are an excellent opportunity to influence what happens in Congress. I hope you and your neighbors will try to make it to one of our meetings listed below. Please come and ask questions, offer your comments, and help me better represent you.

Monday, April 17th

Forest Ranch
Community Center
15807 Forest Ranch Road
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Friday, April 21st

Weaverville
Weaverville Library
211 W. Main Street
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 18th

Marysville
City Hall
1526 C Street
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Nevada City
Seamons Lodge
425 A Nimrod Street
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 20th

Redding
City Council Chambers
777 Cyprus Avenue
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Yreka
Community Center
810 N. Oregon Street
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 13th

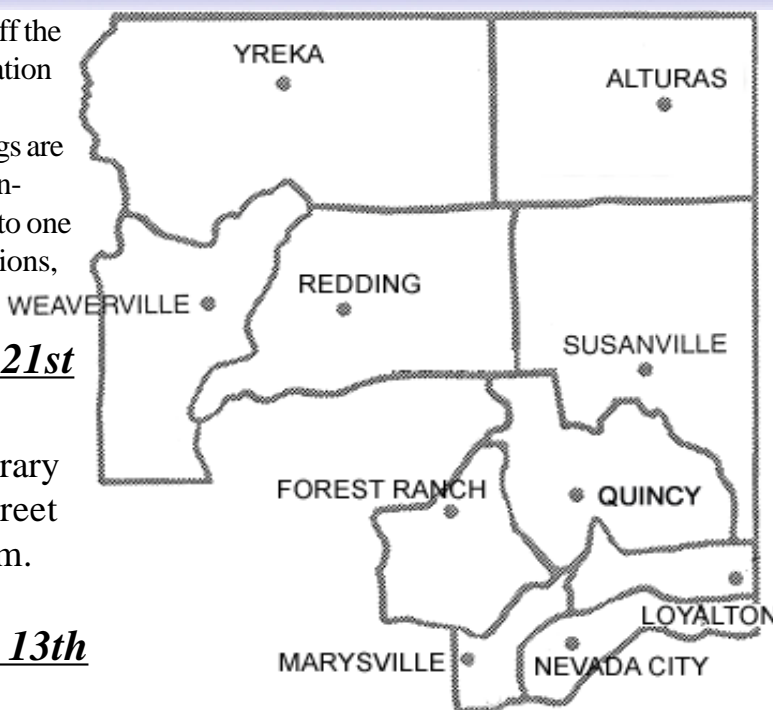
Alturas
Alturas City Hall
200 N. Street
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Susanville
Lassen County Board of
Supervisors Chambers
221 Roop Street
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 27th

Loyalton
Loyalton Social Hall
105 Beckworth Drive
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Quincy
Quincy Library
445 Jackson Street
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.



Army - Navy Air Force - Merchant Marine Service Academy Applications Being Accepted

As your member of Congress, I have the honor of recommending young men and women for appointment to our nation's service academies. These fine schools include the U.S. Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. These institutions provide the unique opportunity to train for a career as an officer in our armed forces.

Appointments are available to young men and women between 17 and 22 years old who are residents of our Congressional District. The application deadline is October 31, 2000. If you are interested in this unique educational experience, please call my office at 530-893-8363, or write me at the following address:

Rep. Wally Herger
55 Independence Circle, Suite 104
Chico, CA 95973



Congressman Herger (right) and Chairwoman Helen Chenoweth-Hage (ID) testify at a January 29 congressional field hearing in Mariposa, CA, regarding the development of the Sierra Nevada Framework, a forest health management plan developed by the Forest Service. Herger joined many Northern Californians in expressing both his interest in forest management issues and his concerns and frustrations about the high risk of catastrophic fire threatening Northern California forests. The meeting was sponsored by the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health.

Congressman Herger's 2000 Congressional Questionnaire

	Constituent #1 <u>Yes / No / Undecided</u>	Constituent #2 <u>Yes / No / Undecided</u>
1. The current Social Security earnings limit allows older Americans between the ages of 65 and 69 to earn up to \$17,000 without penalizing their benefits. Social Security benefits are reduced by \$1 for every \$3 earned in excess of the earnings limit. Do you believe that seniors should be allowed to work without experiencing a reduction in their Social Security benefits?	1. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you believe that Congress is doing an adequate job of reducing waste, fraud and abuse in the federal budget?	2. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
3. The most recent budget estimates indicate that during the next ten years, the national budget will have a non-Social Security surplus of \$746 billion. Please rank, first, second, third, how you believe Congress should use this surplus. A. Provide tax reform and relief B. Reduce the national public debt C. Increase spending on federal programs	3. A. _____ B. _____ C. _____	A. _____ B. _____ C. _____
4. Under current tax law, nearly 25 million American married couples are taxed an average of \$1,400 more annually than they would be if they lived together without benefit of marriage. Congress is currently considering legislation to repeal this penalty. Should President Clinton sign such legislation into law?	4. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you believe that the \$22 billion Medicare hospital benefit surplus projected for next year should be separated from the rest of the budget so it can be spent only on the Medicare hospital benefit program?	5. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are you in favor of creating reservoirs that would help store water in times of drought and also be used for flood control?	6. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do you believe that local individuals and groups, such as the Quincy Library Group - a local coalition of environmentalists, labor, local officials, forest products industry representatives, and concerned citizens - should have more input and control on how the federal government manages our local natural resources?	7. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Do you believe there should be a sales tax ban on purchases made over the Internet?	8. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
9. Would you support funding in the budget to provide additional training and equipment for our armed services?	9. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
10. Should the inheritance tax, which upon death, taxes individual's family-owned businesses and farms be significantly reduced or eliminated?	10. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do you believe Americans should be able to use a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes to set up individually-controlled investment accounts?	11. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
12. Do you believe that the United States should enact trade policies that help to open foreign markets to U.S. products and services?	12. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
13. On the whole, do you believe President Clinton is doing a good job?	13. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
14. On the whole, do you believe Congress is doing a good job?	14. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Congressman Wally Herger
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0502

Place
Stamp
Here

Return Address
Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Legislative Update

H.R. 6, Marriage Penalty Relief Act - Provides substantial tax relief for the nearly 25 million couples who pay \$1,400 more in taxes on average due to the marriage penalty tax. The Senate is expected to take up the bill in the near future. *(Passed by House on February 10, 2000)*

H.R. 5, Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act - Eliminates the Social Security earnings limit, thus allowing seniors to continue working without losing any Social Security benefits. Under current law, Social Security recipients between 65 and 69 years of age lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for every \$3 dollars earned above a set earnings limit. *(Passed the House February 29, 2000, Pending Action in the Senate)*

H.R. 2389 – The County Schools Funding Revitalization Act of 1999 - Strengthens education by providing millions of dollars annually for school districts in rural communities. As a member of the House Budget Committee, Congressman Herger is working to ensure that this important bill receives the funding necessary to restore equity to our rural schools. *(Passed the House November 3, 1999, Pending Action in the Senate)*

Medicare Lockbox - Introduced legislation that would ensure Medicare surpluses, which will amount to \$126 billion over the next five years, are not spent on unrelated programs. This legislation supplements the Social Security Lockbox that was authored by Herger and passed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives last year. *(Referred for Committee Action, March 8, 2000)*

H.R. 3615, The Rural Local Broadcast Signal Act Provides financial incentives to encourage the delivery of local TV signals via satellite into rural markets, such as in Northern California. A House vote on this legislation is expected in the very near future. *(Introduced February 10, 2000)*

H.R. 3160, The Common Sense Protections for Endangered Species Act - Seeks to restore common sense to the Endangered Species Act by requiring more state and local involvement, emphasizing sound science in decision making, and increasing protections for private property owners. The bill contains language similar to a bill introduced last year by Congressman Herger addressing bureaucratic environmental regulations that can prevent agencies from performing life-saving levee repair work. *(House Committee on Resources held hearings in February and March 2000)*

H.R. 3594, Installment Tax Correction Act of 2000 Introduced legislation which allows all businesses the option of using the installment sales method. Installment sales – popular among small businesses – were disallowed by a Clinton Administration proposal last year. The bill, which could help as many as 200,000 small businesses a year, would overturn this new law and grant businessmen and businesswomen the ability to continue using this important small business tool. *(Introduced by Rep. Herger on February 8, 2000)*



Congressman
Wally
Herger

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Official Business

Wally Herger
M.C.
Bulk Rate

Congressman Herger's 2000 Congressional Questionnaire